

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 0460

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, EAID, NASA, MA, US

SUBJECT: US-MALAGASY RELATIONS: NASA STATION AND ECONOMIC AID

NAIROBI FOR REDSO

REFS: A. STATE 51600; B. STATE 47624 (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY: GENERAL ANDRIAMAHAZO WOULD PERSONALLY HONOR AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE REACHED BY PREVIOUS GOMR FOR \$100,000 RENT FOR NASA STATION, BUT MOST MEMBERS OF MILITARY DIRECTORY, APPARENTLY INCITED BY RATSIRAKA, CONSIDER THIS AMOUNT PLUS \$3 MILLION RAILROAD LOAN INSUFFICIENT COMPENSATION FOR STATION. DESPITE THIS SITUATION ANDRIAMAHAZO HAS GIVEN ASSURANCE STATION WILL REMAIN AS LONG AS HE IS IN POWER, AND HAS ASKED FOR U.S. SUPPORT. U.S. RESPONSE TO GOMR MILITARY AND ECONOMIC INTERESTS WOULD HOPEFULLY CREATE MORE REASONABLE ATTITUDE WITHIN DIRECTORY ON NASA RENTAL ISSUE. HOWEVER, FAILURE SO FAR OF GOMR TO RESTORE NASA COMMUNICATIONS, DESPITE FAVORABLE ATTITUDE THEREON OF ANDRIAMAHAZO, STILL LEAVES NASA STATION UP IN AIR. END SUMMARY.

1. I CALLED ON CHAIRMAN, MALAGASY MILITARY DIRECTOR,
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GEN. ANDRIAMAHAZO, MAR 14, TO DISCUSS NASA STATION RENT

AND OTHER MATTERS. THIS TELEGRAM SHOULD BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH TANANARIVE 0430 REPORTING ON POLITICAL CURRENTS IN MADAGASCAR, AS WELL AS TANANARIVE 0431, 0432 AND 0442 (ALL 3 NOTALS) REPORTING OTHER MATTERS DISCUSSED DURING TALK WITH ANDRIAMAHAZO.

2. I RAISED AGREEMENT REACHED IN PRINCIPLE WITH PREVIOUS GOMR FOR \$100,000 PER YEAR RENT FROM 1973 ON FOR NASA STATION, AND U.S. READINESS EXTEND \$3 MILLION LOAN FOR RAILROAD ON BASIS OUR UNDERSTANDING ABOUT NASA RENT.

3. ANDRIAMAHAZO REPLIED AS FOLLOWS: IF IT WERE JUST UP TO HIM, \$100,000 PER YEAR RENTAL WOULD BE HONORED. HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF RECENT POLITICAL EVENTS, IT TURNED OUT THAT THERE WAS TOO LONG A DELAY IN CONCLUDING NASA AGREEMENT. MOST MEMBERS OF NEW MILITARY DIRECTORY, CONSIDERING U.S. BIG, RICH COUNTRY WHICH PROVIDES MUCH MORE ASSISTANCE TO CERTAIN OTHER COUNTRIES WHERE U.S. HAS NO SPECIFIC INTERESTS COMPARABLE TO NASA STATION IN MADAGASCAR, HOLD VIEW THAT NASA RENTAL OFFER, PLUS A.I.D. RAILROAD LOAN, NOT SUFFICIENT COMPENSATION FOR STATION. THEIR PRESENT ATTITUDE IS THAT, IF U.S. NOT WILLING RAISE COMPENSATION, IT CAN CLOSE STATION AND KEEP ITS RAILROAD LOAN.

4. THIS SITUATION ARISES IN GOOD MEASURE FROM RATSIRAKA'S MANEUVERS ON NASA STATION (TANANARIVE 0309). HE APPEARS BE INDICATING THAT HE REACHED AGREEMENT WITH SECRETARY ROGERS AND NASA ADMINISTRATOR FLETCHER ON RENT QUESTION DURING WASHINGTON VISIT IN SUMMER OF 1973. I TOLD ANDRIAMAHAZO THAT I HAD RECENTLY REVIEWED RECORD ON RATSIRAKA'S VISIT, AND RENT QUESTION DID NOT EVEN COME UP IN HIS TALK WITH SECRETARY AND NASA ADMINISTRATOR. I ADDED IT WAS BROUGHT UP FOR FIRST TIME BY RATSIRAKA IN TALK WITH ESCORT OFFICER COHEN WHILE RATSIRAKA TOURING OUTSIDE WASHINGTON, AND THEN BY RATSIRAKA WITH ME ON HIS RETURN TO MADAGASCAR. ANDRIAMAHAZO ASKED ME HOW MUCH RENT RATSIRAKA HAD REQUESTED, AND I REPLIED \$1 MILLION PER YEAR RETROACTIVELY TO 1963 AND SAME AMOUNT ANNUALLY FROM 1973 ON -- FIGURES WHICH WERE BROUGHT UP IN FIRST GOMR-EMBASSY NEGOTIATING SESSION AT
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WORKING LEVEL IN NOVEMBER 1973.

5. RATSIRAKA HAS OBVIOUSLY STIRRED UP YOUNGER OFFICERS IN DIRECTORY WITH HIS LINE, AND HAS PLAYED ON THEIR NAIVETE ABOUT WHAT U.S. SHOULD BE ABLE DO FOR MADAGASCAR.

6. DESPITE HIS PROBLEMS WITHIN DIRECTORY, ANDRIAMAHAZO SAID TO ME QUIETLY THAT NASA STATION WILL REMAIN IN

MADAGASCAR AS LONG AS HE IS IN POWER. BUT, POINTING TO HIS PRO-AMERICANISM AND HIS TROUBLES WITHIN DIRECTORY, HE ASKED FOR U.S. SUPPORT.

7. I TOLD HIM I HAD URGED THIS POSITION ON WASHINGTON, AND STATED THAT INFORMATION I HAD RECEIVED INDICATED FAVORABLE WASHINGTON ATMOSPHERE TOWARD GOMR SINCE HE HAD ASSUMED POWER. I POINTED OUT THAT U.S. CONSIDERS \$100,000 RENT AND RAILROAD LOAN ADEQUATE COMPENSATION FOR NASA STATION, BUT THAT WASHINGTON HAS INFORMED EMBASSY IT PREPARED CONSIDER GOMR REQUESTS FOR FOLLOWING:

(A) EXPORT-IMPORT BANK CREDITS FOR HEAVY EQUIPMENT.

(B) FINANCING FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR FERTILIZER PLANT IF PRELIMINARY STUDY ADEQUATE.

(C) FINANCING AGRICULTURAL PROJECT IN FY 1977 IN CONJUNCTION WITH IBRD OR FED.

(D) PL 480 REQUEST FOR 20,000 TONS OF RICE IF GOMR WILL COME THROUGH WITH BASIC DATA ON RICE PRODUCTION, IMPORTS, ETC., REQUESTED BY EMBASSY TWO WEEKS AGO.

8. ANDRIAMHAZO NOTED ABOVE, BUT ALSO PUT EMPHASIS ON MILITARY EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS, HIS CENTRAL PREOCCUPATION AS REPORTED TANANARIVE 0431.

9. I LEFT ANDRIMHAZO CONVINCED THAT WE WOULD SIMPLY HAVE TO WAIT FOR WHILE ON NASA RENTAL ISSUE ON PREMISE THAT U.S. RESPONSE TO GOMR MILITARY AND ECONOMIC INTERESTS, EVEN THOUGH NOT SPECIFICALLY LINKED TO NASA STATION, WOULD HOPEFULLY CREATE MORE REASONABLE ATTITUDE AMONG OTHER
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DIRECTORY OFFICERS ON NASA RENT QUESTION. MEANWHILE, I EXPECTED STATION BE ABLE RESUME OPERATIONS.

10. HOWEVER, SUBSEQUENT FAILURE GOMR RESTOR NASA COMMUNICATIONS (TANANARIVE 0455), DESPITE FAVORABLE ATTITUDE AND ACTION OF ANDRIAMHAZO WHEN I SAW HIM MAR 14 AND DESPITE MY FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO HIM MAR 17, LEAVES MATTER UP IN AIR. WE SUGGEST WAITING FEW MOE DAYS TO SEE WHETHER ANDRIAMHAZO REPLIES TO MY LETTER.
MENDENHALL

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